

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

100

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 736
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which
was referred H.B. No. 736 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate
funds for a three-year Wastewater System Technology Testing Pilot
Program within the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research
Center.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands;
University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center; Hawai'i
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Commission; Environmental
Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Public Access to
SunScreens Coalition; Hawai'i Reef & Ocean Coalition; Coral Reef
Alliance; WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations; The Nature
Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra; Hawai'i Wai Ola; and five
individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State is committed to improving
water quality and public health in its programs aimed at
transitioning away from cesspools. However, the existing approved
replacement options pose their own challenges as advanced
treatment units are highly effective but costly and septic

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systems, though more affordable, have limited nutrient removal efficiency in Hawaii's coastal environments. The lack of viable, cost-effective solutions is a major barrier to meeting the State's water quality goals and could lead to substantial investments with limited impact. This measure addresses some of the State's cesspool conversion challenges by exploring alternative affordable and effective treatment options.

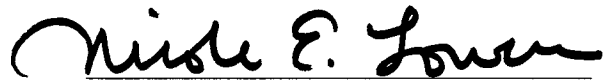
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee notes the existing unspecified appropriation amount in this measure and requests the University of Hawaii to provide the anticipated costs to implement the Wastewater System Technology Testing Pilot Program as this measure advances through the legislative process.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 736, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 736, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Higher Education.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,



NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 136		Committee Referral: EEP, HED, FIN		Date: 1/30/25	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
EEP Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)		✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)		✓			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin		✓			
4. KUSCH, Matthias		✓			
5. QUINLAN, Sean		✓			
6. WARD, Gene					✓
TOTAL (6)		5			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ <i>Amy Perruso</i>					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					